

**Memorial Minute for Judy Peace Watkins Greenberg
(Broadmead)**

March 22, 1942 – March 19, 2025

Judy Greenberg was a person who gave her spirit and heart to the things that she cared about. Broadmead Monthly Meeting of Friends was fortunate to be among the things she cared about. For many years, starting in the early 1990s, she enriched us with her remarkable gifts. She was active in so many aspects of our Meeting that she seemed to embody the testimony of community.

Judy delighted in our young Friends. Perhaps from her work as a reading specialist in public schools, where she often created her own teaching tools, she enjoyed devising ways and materials that taught Quaker values. Judy was for many years a thoughtful, loving presence on the First Day School Committee. She helped our Meeting establish the tradition of recognizing milestones as young Friends matured. She thought carefully about the messages being shared with young Friends and even crossed out words in the picture books she shared, adapting them to better reflect Quaker values. Judy took care to involve young Friends in the activities of the meeting.

Judy had a special interest in Earthcare and liked sharing that interest with others, especially children. She would sometimes write new words to familiar songs, such as changing the words of “I am an Acorn,” to “I am a Chrysalis,” to teach about the stages of a butterfly’s life. One special memory for many is the Teeny Tiny Tea Party she helped create when two First Day School attenders were moving out of state. The Teeny Tiny Tea Party included teeny tiny dishes, teeny tiny refreshments, teeny

tiny napkins and place cards, and maybe even some teeny tiny tears at saying good-bye to dear friends.

Judy once described herself as having “ancestors (that) included countless generations of amphibians, mammals, and primates.” She had a special concern for the environment and helped start an Earthcare Committee in Broadmead and was active in the Earthcare Committee in Lake Erie Yearly Meeting. At her home, she created a Monarch Butterfly Waystation at the front of their property. She introduced many of us to the concept of watersheds. Thanks to Judy, during introductions at the end of worship we sometimes name our watershed along with our names. As with so many things, Judy asked us to think not just about oceans and rivers, but also about the little geographic elements that start in our own backyards and create the ecosystem of earth that we all share.

One big project that Judy and the Broadmead Earthcare Committee took on was the creation of a model of the lower Maumee River Watershed. The purpose of the model was to show the large number of Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs) proliferating in the watershed and polluting Lake Erie. Judy was horrified at the treatment of the animals in these factory “farms” and the harm done to our drinking water source by their effluent.

The model, created by her husband Bill from individual sections printed from Google Maps, showed an aerial view of the terrain in the watershed. The map, mounted on sections that could be joined together, was divided by an open space winding through the middle that represented the Maumee River. Thus, a viewer could walk the length of the river and observe scenes representing both positive and negative impacts on the watershed. Model buildings, farm animals, and other items told the story of the watershed. This model was exhibited first at the Friends General Conference Gathering held in Bowling Green in 2010 and was resurrected in 2018 for the Gathering held in Toledo. In between the two Gatherings, the watershed was

displayed several times in Toledo for community programs and in Bluffton at LEYM's Annual Meeting. Judy got many people, not just those on the Earthcare Committee, involved with this project, including one young friend who made an elaborate "wayfinding" sign for the watershed model.

Judy also served Lake Erie Yearly Meeting for several years as first a member and then clerk of the Arrangements & Site Committee. As clerk, she developed a booklet of guidelines and relevant information to aid the Committee in its preparation for the Annual Meeting. Judy turned those preparations into a fun project and got Bill to develop the spreadsheets for registration!

Judy always held a concern that everyone's voice should be heard in our Meeting. Whether it was being certain that everyone who wished to speak on a topic had the opportunity to do so, or making sure that young Friends got to participate in projects taken on by the Meeting, Judy wanted everyone to feel that their input mattered. With her influence, people who were new to the Meeting quickly learned that we wanted to hear what they had to say.

Judy and her husband, Bill, opened their home for many Quaker occasions, such as committee meetings, planning meetings, a speaker on environmental matters, and work on the watershed model.

The most special times, however, were when we engaged in activities that feed the soul, such as musical soirees, poetry readings, celebrating a Friend's recovering from illness, and other milestones. Many of us learned that we could just stop by and sit with them on the porch, looking out at their gardens when we needed the view of their garden and the presence of friends.

Judy once wrote a poem to a couple in the Meeting who had a stillborn child, expressing her feelings on the loss of this "child of our Meeting." The last lines speak to us now, as we remember Judy:

We will hold you tight, tight with us
safe inside our hearts always.
And we will watch for the joy
of your presence with us,
gentle, delighting spirit,
buoying us on as we stumble and sing
seeking,
as in a glass dimly,
to live in love's Light.